

# No. 72.

---

MARCH 3, 1808.

---

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole House on Tuesday next.

---

## A Bill,

For establishing trading houses with the Indian tribes.

---

1    Sec. 1. *BE it enacted by the senate and house of representatives*  
2 *of the United States of America, in congress assembled,* That it shall  
3 be lawful for the president of the United States to establish trad-  
4 ing houses at such posts and places on the frontiers, or in the In-  
5 dian country, on either or both sides of the Mississippi river, as he  
6 shall judge most convenient, for the purpose of carrying on a libe-  
7 ral trade with the several Indian nations within the United States,  
8 or their territories.

1    Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the president of the  
2 United States shall be authorized to appoint a superintendent of  
3 Indian trade, whose duty it shall be to purchase and take charge  
4 of goods intended for trade with the Indian nations aforesaid, and

5 to transmit the same to such places as he shall be directed by the  
6 president; and he shall take an oath, or affirmation, faithfully to  
7 execute the trust committed to him, and that he will not directly,  
8 nor indirectly, be concerned or interested in any trade, commerce,  
9 or barter, but on the public account; and he shall also give bond  
10 in the penal sum of twenty thousand dollars, with sufficient security,  
11 to be approved by the secretary of the treasury of the United  
12 States, truly and honestly to account for all money, goods, and  
13 other property whatever, which shall come into his hands, or for  
14 which in good faith he ought to account, and to perform all the du-  
15 ties required of him by this act; and his accounts shall be made  
16 up quarter-yearly, and transmitted to the secretary of the treasury.

1    Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the superintendent of  
2 Indian trade shall receive an annual salary of two thousand dol-  
3 lars, payable quarter-yearly at the treasury of the United States;  
4 and that all letters and packets to and from him, relating to the  
5 duties of his office, shall be free of postage.

1    Sec. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That the president of the  
2 United States shall be authorized to appoint an agent for each  
3 trading house established under the provisions of this act, and  
4 every such agent shall give bond with sufficient security in such  
5 sum as the president shall direct, truly and honestly to account  
6 for all the money, goods, and other property whatever, which shall  
7 come into his hands, and for which he ought so to account, and to  
8 perform all the duties required of him by this act.

1    Sec. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of  
 2 each of the said agents to receive from the superintendant of Indian  
 3 trade, and dispose of in trade with the Indian nations aforesaid, such  
 4 goods as shall be transmitted to him by the said superintendent, to  
 5 be received and disposed of as aforesaid, according to the rules and  
 6 orders which the president of the United States shall prescribe ;  
 7 and every such agent shall take an oath, or affirmation, faithfully to  
 8 execute the trust committed to him ; and that he will not directly,  
 9 nor indirectly, be concerned or interested in any trade, commerce,  
 10 or barter, but on the public account: and he shall render an  
 11 account quarter-yearly to the superintendent of Indian trade, of all  
 12 money, goods, or other property whatsoever, which shall be trans-  
 13 mitted to him, or which shall come into his hands, or for which,  
 14 in good faith, he ought to account; and he shall transmit dupli-  
 15 cates of his accounts to the secretary of the treasury of the United  
 16 States.

1    Sec. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the prices of goods sup-  
 2 plied to, and to be paid for by the Indians, shall be regulated in  
 3 such manner, that the capital stock furnished by the United States,  
 4 shall not be diminished.

1    Sec. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That during the continuance  
 2 of this act, the annual sum of three thousand dollars be, and the  
 3 same is hereby appropriated for the payment of the salary of the  
 4 superintendent of Indian trade, and his clerks, to be paid out of  
 5 any money in the treasury of the United States not otherwise ap-  
 6 propriated.

1    Sec. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That during the continuance  
 2 of this act, the president of the United States be, and he is hereby  
 3 authorized to draw annually from the treasury of the United States,  
 4 a sum not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars, to be applied un-  
 5 der his direction, to the payment of the agents, assistant agents,  
 6 clerks and interpreters.

1    Sec. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That the sum of three hun-  
 2 dred thousand dollars, including the sums heretofore appropriated,  
 3 and applied to the like purpose, and exclusive of the salary of the  
 4 superintendent of Indian trade, and the allowances to his clerks and  
 5 to the agents, assistant agents, clerks and interpreters, be, and the  
 6 same is hereby appropriated, for the purpose of carrying on trade  
 7 and intercourse with the Indian nations, in the manner aforesaid,  
 8 to be paid out of any money in the treasury of the United States  
 9 not otherwise appropriated.

1    Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That if the superintendent,  
 2 any agent or agents, their clerks, the clerks of the superintendent,  
 3 or other person employed by him or them, shall purchase or receive  
 4 from any Indian, in the way of trade or barter, any gun, or other  
 5 article commonly used in hunting; any instrument of husbandry  
 6 or cooking utensil, of the kind usually obtained by Indians, in their  
 7 intercourse with white people, or any article of clothing, except skins  
 8 or furs, or if any of the said agents or clerks be directly or indi-  
 9 rectly concerned in any trade, commerce or barter, but on the pub-  
 10 lic account, he or they shall respectively forfeit a sum not exceed-  
 11 ing one thousand dollars for each offence, and shall be removed

12 from such office, agency or employment, to be recovered by action  
 13 of debt, in the name and to the use of the United States, in any  
 14 court having jurisdiction in like cases: *Provided*, That no suit  
 15 shall be commenced except in the state or territory within which  
 16 the cause of action shall have arisen, or in which the defendant  
 17 may reside.

1   Sec. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of  
 2 the superintendent of Indian trade, under the direction of the pre-  
 3 sident of the United States, to cause such furs, as are commonly  
 4 used by hatters in the manufactory of hats, to be sold at public  
 5 auction, reasonable public notice whereof shall be given previous  
 6 to such sale in different parts of the United States, making distri-  
 7 bution of the same, in proportion to the demand of the market, and  
 8 as may be deemed most advantageous to the United States, and  
 9 upon such terms and conditions as shall be prescribed by the pre-  
 10 sident of the United States; and that it shall be the duty of the said  
 11 superintendent, under the direction, and upon such terms and con-  
 12 ditions as shall be prescribed as aforesaid, to cause the peltries, and  
 13 other furs, to be disposed of in such manner, as shall be deemed  
 14 most advantageous to the United States.

1   Sec. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That the act entitled "An  
 2 act for establishing trading houses with the Indian tribes," passed  
 3 on the twenty-first day of April, in the year one thousand eight  
 4 hundred and six, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

1   Sec. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That this act shall be in  
 2 force for and during the term of three years, and no longer.